WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of using a set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier with one or more arrays of the set having been previously exposed to a sample, comprising separating the set of chemical arrays into multiple sub-sets each with one or more arrays.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the carrier is rigid.

3. A method according to claim 2 additionally comprising following separation then separately reading the separated sub-sets of the chemical arrays.

4. A method according to claim 2 additionally comprising:

exposing arrays of the set to the one or more sample or wash fluids while the arrays are held together by the common carrier.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein all the arrays of the set have been previously exposed to a sample.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein multiple array identifiers are present before separating such that after the separating each separated sub-set of arrays is carried on a separate substrate along with at least one of the array identifiers.

7. A method according to claim 6 additionally comprising retrieving array layout information for a separated array sub-set using an array identifier carried on a same separate substrate as that separated array sub-set.

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the common carrier is a one-piece substrate having a surface on which the arrays are disposed.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the separation occurs along markings present on the substrate prior to the separating.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the substrate is glass and the markings comprise scores on the substrate to facilitate breaking of the glass.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein:

the common carrier comprises a substrate holder;

the sub-sets of arrays are each carried on separate substrates mounted at different locations on the holder; and

the separating comprises removing the separate substrates from the holder.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the separate substrates are mounted in a series each adjacent the next.

13. A method according to claim 1 wherein;

the sub-sets of arrays which are separated are arranged in two directions on the common carrier relative to one another before the separating.

14. A method according to claim 1 wherein the set of arrays on the common carrier before the separating, consists of 2n by 3n arrays on the carrier.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein n is 4, 8 or 16.

16. A method according to claim 14 wherein the common carrier has a length and width no greater than 150 mm by 100 mm.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the set of arrays is separated into 4 sub-sets which have the same length and width.

18. A method according to claim 1 additionally comprising receiving from a remote location the set of chemical arrays held together by the common carrier, along with an indication as to the locations along which separating occurs.

19. A method according to claim 1 wherein:

the common carrier comprises a one-piece substrate having a surface on which the arrays are disposed; and

the indication of the locations along which separating occurs comprises markings on the substrate as received.

20. A method according to claim 18 wherein:

the common carrier comprises a substrate holder;

the sub-sets of arrays are each carried on separate substrates mounted at different locations on the holder; and

the indication of the locations along which separating will occur comprises a visual indication of locations at which the separate substrates may be removed from the holder.

21. A method comprising receiving from a remote location a result of reading performed by a method of claim 3.

22. A method comprising forwarding to a remote location a result of reading performed by a method of claim 3.

23. An apparatus comprising:

a common carrier;

a set of chemical arrays which are held together by the common carrier, wherein the common carrier comprises an indication of locations along which the carrier should be separated so as to separate the set of chemical arrays into multiple sub-sets each with one or more arrays.

24. An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein arrays of the set have been previously exposed to a sample.

25. An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein:

the common carrier is a one-piece substrate having a surface on which arrays are disposed; and

the indication of locations along which the carrier should be separated comprises markings on the substrate.

26. An apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the markings comprise scores on the substrate to facilitate the separating.

27. An apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the common carrier comprises glass.

28. An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein:

the common carrier comprises a substrate holder;

the sub-sets of arrays are carried on separate substrates mounted at different locations on the holder; and

the indication of the locations along which the carrier should be separated comprises a visual indication of locations at which the separate substrates may be removed from the holder.

29. An apparatus according to claim 23 additionally comprising multiple array identifiers such that each separated sub-set of arrays is carried on a separate substrate along with at least one of the array identifiers.